

10. A method according to Claim 9 in which the frame buffer is segmented to drive a matrix of display devices.

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11. A method according to Claim 6 in which the low resolution wide field of view image component is of a background scene, and in which the high resolution narrow field of view image component is of a target.

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### REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of this application. Reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested in view of the instant amendments and remarks.

The Examiner was correct in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. The Applicants were obliged to the Examiner for noticing the mistake.

In view of the objections in paragraphs 5 – 8 of the Office Action, original Claims 1 – 5 have been deleted and they have been replaced by new Claims 6 – 11. In order to more particularly distinguish the invention, the claims have been amended to recite a method of operating the image display apparatus.

The USA Patent No. 5940117 to Hassan et al discloses a method for transmitting multi-resolution image data, wherein images are decomposed into levels of resolution. A base image has the coarsest resolution, to which image details are added to improve the resolution of the image. The initial image is first decomposed into levels of resolution, and it is these parts of the initial image that are then recombined. The base image is initially sent. This is a coarse image of low resolution, the content of which is

determined and, if not of sufficient detail, a request is made to increase the resolution incrementally by adding additional information from the original image until the resolution is increased sufficiently to display an image of a satisfactory resolution. The Hassan et al invention has the advantage that only the amount of information necessary to provide the agreed quality and intelligibility of the image is transmitted, thereby reducing image data transmitted. The Hassan et al method does not increase the pixel count of an image, but decomposes an image into a base image and image details and then recombines them incrementally into the original image if all of the image details are sent.

It is important to realise that Hassan et al does not combine into a common format a low resolution image from a first source with a high resolution image from a second and different source. This feature, which is not present in Hassan et al, has been emphasised in the Applicant's new Claim 6.

Basis for the new Claim 6 is to be found at page 4 lines 4 – 7 and at page 8 lines 1 – 3 of the specification as originally filed.

The Applicant's rely for patentability of Claims 7 – 11 on the fact that these claims include all of the features of Claim 6, which Claim 6 is believed to be allowable for the reasons mentioned above. Claims 7 – 10 correspond to original Claims 2 – 5. Claim 11 is a new claim and basis for this claim is to be found at page 8 lines 11 – 22 of the specification as originally filed.

Insofar as paragraphs 10 – 13 of the Office Action rejected original Claims 2 and 3 over a combination of Hassan et al and Thompson et al USA Patent No. 5,600,347, the new Claims 7 and 8 are clearly believed to be allowable because they include all of the features of Claim 6 and Hassan et al does not disclose the features of Claim 6.

Similarly, insofar as paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Office Action reject Claim 5 over Hassan et al in view of Lauer et al USA Patent No. 5,523,769, the new Claim 10 is believed to be allowable because Hassan et al does not disclose the features of new Claim 6.

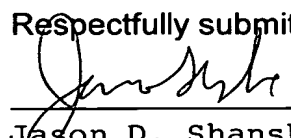
The new Claim 11 is also believed to be allowable because it includes all of the features of the new Claim 6.

In accordance with the Applicant's duty to disclose all known prior art, it is hereby disclosed that the Assignee of the Applicants has a corresponding United Kingdom patent application on which a search has been conducted and in which the United Kingdom Patent Office Examiner cited British Patent No. 2259213A and USA Patent Nos. 5326266, 5320534, 4479784, 4439157, 4348186 and 4028725. An Information Disclosure Statement is filed herewith. The Applicant's have carefully considered these patents and they are not believed to affect the allowability of the new Claims 6 - 11, nor the above submissions.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this **RESPONSE** is found to be **INCOMPLETE**, or if at any time it appears that a **TELEPHONE CONFERENCE** with Counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or one of his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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target projectors, and the image may jump when moving from one facet to another due to slight misalignments between the target projectors at the transition point.

It is an aim of the present invention to provide wide angle display apparatus with a uniform high resolution capability, in which low resolution wide field of view and high resolution narrow field of view images are able to be electronically processed into a common high resolution pixel format and blended before being displayed by very high resolution display apparatus.

Accordingly, the present invention provides image display apparatus which combines low and high resolution image data in a common data format prior to display.

The apparatus may be one in which a low resolution image is resampled to increase the pixel count to that of the highest resolution imagery.

The apparatus may be one in which a low resolution image is interpolated to increase the pixel count to that of the highest resolution imagery.

The composite imagery may be stored in a frame buffer. The frame buffer may be segmented to drive a matrix of display devices.

The image display apparatus may comprise an image generator with multi-channel outputs, each channel of which may contain multiple component images with the same or differing resolutions, an image processing unit which separates the component image windows, resamples the low

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☆ Insert into spec at page 4, line 4<sup>2</sup>

It is an aim of the present invention to provide a method of operating image display apparatus with a uniform high resolution capability, in which low resolution wide field of view and high resolution narrow field of view images are able to be electronically processed into a common high resolution pixel format and blended before being displayed by very high resolution display apparatus.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a method of operating image display apparatus, which method comprises combining in a common pixel format a low resolution wide field of view image component from a first source, and a high resolution narrow field of view image component from a second source which is different from the first source, and in which the common pixel format is the pixel format of a high resolution image which forms the second source and from which the high resolution narrow field of view image component is obtained, whereby the high resolution narrow field of view image component is able to be positioned anywhere in a display obtained from the image display apparatus.

The method may be one in which a low resolution image is resampled to increase the pixel count to that of the highest resolution imagery.

The method may be one in which a low resolution image is interpolated to increase the pixel count to that of the highest resolution imagery.

The composite imagery may be stored in a frame buffer. The frame buffer may be segmented to drive a matrix of display devices.

The method may be one in which the low resolution wide field of view image component is of a background scene, and in which the high resolution narrow field of view image component is of a target.